

Researcher Bill Knecht, left, shows manuscript for his great-grandson, William W. Drummond to Doug Drummond.

PAUL BARKER, DESERT NEWS

man and a former police administrator and vice mayor of Long Beach, Calif., was working on his family history when he came upon Knecht's posting. Up to that time, he had no idea about his ancestor's colorful past. "My dad died at age 50 in 1959, so I really had no information to speak of," says Drummond. "He had come from Burlington, Iowa, in the late 1920s." Drummond responded to the note and recently visited Knecht in Salt Lake City to collect information about his family history. "I'm very, very pleased," Drummond said. "It's knowledge I could not have gotten otherwise. Now I want to find my way back beyond the judge to find his kinfolk."

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Knecht says Judge Drum-

mond was a blatantly immoral man who deserted his wife, Jemima, and five children at Oquawka, Ill. When he was asked about them, he lied that he had obtained a divorce.

Stories of the judges' misdeeds abound, such as when he sent a servant, Cuffy

Cato, to violently settle a personal argument he had with "a Mor-

monized Jew" named Levi Abrams, a shopkeeper in Fill-more, where Judge Drummond presided. Abrams survived the attack, but both Cato and Judge Drummond were arrested for "assault and battery with intent to murder." Although the case was never brought to trial, it threw Judge Drummond's reputation into a shambles.

A clue about Judge Drummond's intentions came in the spring of 1857, when he sold his law books to osea Stout. Afterward, he went to Carson Valley, which at the time was a part of the Utah Territory.

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